

Application No. 09/752,799
Reply to Office Action of January 5, 2004
Attorney Docket: 42390.P10833

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann in view of Monahan. However, Applicants respectfully maintain that neither Mann nor Monahan, alone or in combination, provide the subject matter of the rejected claims. As the Examiner correctly notes, Mann does not disclose, as recited in Applicants' claim 1, a method comprising storing a plurality of content categories, and identifying, according to properties returned by a plurality of search engines, at least one search engine suited to service a query having at least one content category of the plurality of content categories.

Applicants respectfully assert that Mann discloses a system for generating unique top-level domain names. Applicants note that Mann does not disclose identifying, according to *properties* returned by a *plurality* of search engines, at least one search engine suited to service a query as claimed by Applicants. Applicants respectfully maintain that Mann fails to do so because Mann has no need for properties returned by a plurality of search engines when Mann has pre-selected a *single* search engine (Mann; col. 7, Ins. 5-9).

Moreover, applicants respectfully assert that Mann fails to disclose the claimed limitation of *identifying* at least one search engine according to the *properties* returned by a *plurality* of search engines. Hence, not only does Mann fail to disclose a *plurality* of search engines – a fact acknowledged by the examiner (Office Action of January 5, 2004; page 5. Ins. 7-8) – Mann also fails to teach *properties* returned by the plurality of search engines. Moreover, Mann fails to teach *identifying* at least one search engine according to the properties returned by a plurality of search engines. Thus, Mann fails to disclose the claimed limitation of “*identifying, according to properties returned by a plurality of search engines, at least one search engine suited to service a query*” both with respect to disclosing properties returned by a plurality of search

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engines and further with respect to identifying at least one search engine according to properties returned by a plurality of search engines.

While the applicants agree with the examiner's statement that Monahan teaches a plurality of search engines (Monahan; col. 1, Ins. 20-22), applicants assert that the Examiner has failed to point out where Monahan discloses the claimed limitation of "*identifying*, according to *properties* returned by a plurality of search engines, at least one search engine suited to service a query." Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to MPEP 2143.03 requiring that "(t)o establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." Not only does Monahan not teach or suggest *properties* returned by a plurality of search engines, Monahan further fails to teach or suggest *identifying* at least one search engine suited to service a query according to *properties* returned by a plurality of search engines. Hence, applicants assert that Monahan neither teaches nor suggests the claimed limitation of "*identifying*, according to *properties* returned by a plurality of search engines, at least one search engine suited to service a query," and thus Monahan fails to correct the deficiencies of Mann in these respects.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw her rejection of claims 1-15.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance.

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

If the Examiner has any questions, she is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 264-6473. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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